



FEMA

Briefly Speaking

Region V Newsletter

BROWN TO KEYNOTE AT NATIONAL RESPONSE PLAN WORKSHOP IN CHICAGO

Under Secretary Michael Brown will be the keynote speaker at a workshop to provide details of the new National Response Plan (NRP) to federal, state and local officials in Chicago on May 10.

“The goal of the National Response Plan and those working to support it is to make America safer, stronger and more prepared; and there has never been a more important time for these objectives than now,” Brown said at a recent workshop in Washington, DC.

Similar NRP workshops have or will be held in Seattle, Houston, New York, Miami, Washington D.C. and Los Angeles. The workshops are designed to promote understanding of the NRP among federal, state and local emergency managers and officials.



Under Secretary Michael Brown spoke at the recent NRP Workshop in Washington, DC

President Bush directed the development of the National Response Plan in Homeland Security Presidential Directive Number 5, in February, 2003. The NRP forms the basis for how the federal government will coordinate with state, local and tribal governments and the private sector during the response to a national incident.

The Plan uses best practices from a range of incident management disciplines including: homeland security, emergency management, law enforcement, firefighting, public works/health, and the private sector, and integrates them into one unified structure.

The NRP works to help:

- Save lives and protect the health and safety of the public, responders, and recovery workers;
- Ensure security of the homeland;
- Prevent an imminent incident, including acts of terrorism, from occurring;
- Protect and restore critical infrastructure and key resources;
- Conduct law enforcement investigations to resolve the incident, apprehend the perpetrators, and collect and preserve evidence for prosecution and/or attribution;
- Protect property and mitigate damages and impacts to individuals, communities, and the environment; and
- Facilitate recovery of individuals, families, businesses, governments, and the environment.

The National Response Plan and the National Incident Management System are being introduced to emergency responders nationwide through a comprehensive education system that includes web-based and classroom training.

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Message from the Regional Director...

Welcome to our new staff members! We are glad to have you here and look forward to working with you and getting to know you better. I hope that everyone will take a few moments to meet and extend a warm welcome to our new coworkers. Pictures and a little information about each of them are included in this newsletter.

Congratulations and thanks to everyone for completing the 4 required NIMS and NRP independent study courses more than a week before the April 30 deadline! As you know, completion of these courses is a priority of U/S Brown, who has been notified that Region 5 is 100% compliant.

Plans are underway for an all staff COOP deployment exercise and team building activities on June 22 at our COOP site. In preparation for this exercise, a COOP briefing will be conducted here in the training room on June 16. More information will be coming out soon on the activities scheduled for these dates. Mark your calendars and plan to attend both of these training opportunities.

Speaking of training, be sure to watch for some new in-service training as well as more courses offered by Skill Path. Information on both will be shared as soon as it is available.

As always, thanks for your continued hard work and support. I am always interested in hearing your ideas and concerns.

Jan Odeshoo

Acting Regional Director

State Briefs....

Illinois: FEMA has obligated a total of \$3,115,088 in Public Assistance funding to relocate and construct a public school in Johnson County, Illinois. In April 2002, a tornado struck the Village of Cypress and destroyed the elementary school which serves 120 students, preschool through eighth grade.

Indiana: The Newport Chemical Depot in Newport IN expects to start neutralization of the VX chemical agent manufactured and stored there. Reg 5's CSEPP team is currently working to address last-minute funding and planning issues in coordination with IN and IL through the Newport Community Integrated Process Team (ITP).

Michigan: The 2005 Michigan Homeland Security Training Conference will be held on May 4-6 in Grand Rapids. This year's conference theme is "Taking it to the Next Level." Approximately 1,400 attendees are expected to participate in training and workshops. Keynote speakers include George Tenet, former CIA Director, and Dr. David Kay, former Chief U.N. Weapons Inspector.

Minnesota: FEMA has approved Minnesota's Hazard Mitigation Plan. This ensures the state remains eligible for non-emergency Stafford Act funding. With the approval of Minnesota's and Indiana's plans, all six Reg. 5 states are now compliant.

Ohio: The application deadline for DR-1580 passed on Apr. 18. As of Apr 25, 13,096 from the 32 declared counties have applied for assistance. \$9,485,236 has been approved for IA grants and an additional \$3,403,613 has been approved for PA projects.

Wisconsin: Public Assistance has obligated funds on several large-scale projects in WI, including \$1.4 M to replace the Tarrant Lake Dam in the Village of Cambria, destroyed during the 2004 flood, and \$102K to repair a dam in the Village of Necedah.

VIDEO TELECONFERENCE KICKS OFF 'COOP' OUTREACH

On April 20, FEMA and the General Services Administration held a video teleconference with all Federal Executive Boards (FEB) and Associations in Region 5. The purpose of the teleconference was to kick-off 2005 Continuity of Operations (COOP) training and outreach activities in the Region.

Rex Wamsley, Director, Plans Division and Robert Sullivan, Chief, Federal Coordination Branch, of the Office of National Security Coordination discussed the importance of the continuity planning in the federal government. FEMA's Office of National Security Coordination is the lead agent for Federal Executive Branch COOP.

Sean O'Leary, FEMA's Region 5 COOP Coordinator, and David Dolinsky, GSA's Regional Emergency Coordinator, spoke about the COOP Manager's Train-the-Trainer Class and other training available to the FEBs. At press time, classes were scheduled for Chicago (May 10-12) and Columbus, OH (June 7-9).

The teleconference was hosted by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and was broadcast to HUD offices in all six Region 5 states. Over 50 people in eight different cities participated.

THE 'MOD' SQUAD

Region 5 has always been an agency trendsetter - but now they're going absolutely MOD. The Flood Map Modernization Program (Map Mod) is a congressionally mandated, multi-year program to update the nation's paper flood maps to an all-digital format.

Map Mod is FEMA's approach to updating the nation's flood hazard maps by transforming flood maps into more accurate, easier-to-use, and more readily-available Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM). The new DFIRMs will provide better estimation of the risk of flooding and will present the data in a user-friendly, net-based GIS format. The maps will also become the platform for identifying multiple hazards, in addition to floods.

In order to leverage valuable data that state and local governments may have, such as recent in-depth study data, the Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) program was created to formalize the relationship between FEMA and our mapping partners. Currently, there are 28 CTPs in Region 5.

The general process for updating a map is: scoping / identifying flood hazard data needs, including CTP data integration; DFIRM production; post-preliminary processing, including the Open House; and map adoption, including local ordinance revision

A vital part of post-preliminary processing is the public review and comment period. What was once a lecture-style "final meeting," was changed to an "open house," a format more likely to encourage a dialogue. This concept, developed by Region 5's Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) branch, has spread to other FEMA regions as the new way to do business and gain local buy-in. To date, Region 5 has held approximately 30 open houses in all six Region 5 states.



Colleen Finkl, Shelley Welty and Greg Tatara are the new members of the Region 5 "Mod Squad"

Calendar of Events and Meetings

- **U/S Brown visits Region 5 (May 9)**
Region 5 Office - Chicago
- **National Response Plan Workshop (May 10)**
Hyatt Regency O'Hare/Chicago - 8am to 5pm
- **Interim Natl Preparedness Goal Conference (May 11)**
Hyatt Regency O'Hare/Chicago - 8:30 am - 4pm
- **Region 5 SHMO Conference (May 11 & 12)**
State Park (Brown Co) Indiana
- **Quarterly DHS Partnership Meeting (May 18)**
Region 5 Office - Chicago



Representatives from regions across the country attended the 3-day grants workshop in Chicago

REGION HOSTS GRANTS WORKSHOP

The FEMA Grants Workshop was hosted by the Chicago Regional Office from April 19-21, 2005. This workshop, which is generally held annually, is attended by FEMA regional office staff responsible for the business management aspects of FEMA's disaster and non-disaster grants. More than 30 participants, representing all 10 regional offices, were in attendance.

The overall theme of this year's workshop was "The Year of the Progress Report." Several of the presentations addressed the importance of progress reports as a monitoring and program evaluation tool and the role of the Assistance Officers/Disaster Grants Specialist in securing and reviewing progress reports. Other presentations summarized planned government-wide and Department of Homeland Security grant policy and system changes that will affect FEMA and audit issues. The workshop also presented an opportunity for FEMA regional office staff to share best practices and discuss approaches to common issues.

Focus on Five...



Colleen Finkl comes to us from the City of Chicago Office of Emergency Management & Communications where she managed state and federal grants. She will be working with technical and engineering staff to help them meet Map Modernization performance goals.



Harral Logaras has over 23 years experience with commercial nuclear power operations - but most recently worked in real estate. Harral will be working with the Technical Services Branch, focusing on radiological emergency preparedness in OH, and on commercial nuclear power plant offsite response capabilities in all Region 5 states.



Heidi Nachman worked as a DAE in Region 5's Mitigation Division for one year prior to accepting her position as the Hazard Mitigation Officer for the State of Ohio. Originally from Stevens Point WI, Heidi has degrees in political science and public administration.



Greg Tatara was Director of Project Development and oversaw environmental compliance for the City of Chicago's Department of the Environment. Along with Colleen, he is a project coordinator for the region's Map Modernization program.



J.P. Marsch was a local mitigation planner for the MI State Police's Emergency Management Division before joining FEMA as the Community Planning Specialist. J.P. enjoys international travel when he has the chance and has been to such far-flung destinations as France, Indonesia and Iceland.



Shelley Welty recently moved to the Chicago area from Washington, DC where she worked at the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services for 6 years. Shelley is working on Map Mod, helping state and local governments with post-preliminary processing and map adoption.



Mike Bryant has been working for FEMA this past year as an Environmental DAE. Mike has a background in geology and will act as an Environmental Specialist for the Region. A native Chicagoan, Mike is a major baseball fan. He would not commit to a favorite local team - so pry it out of him.

In the Loop...Chicago events & festivals

Tulip Day on the Magificent Mile (Apr 20 - May 15)
Michigan Ave from Oak St. to the Chicago River

Cinco de Mayo (May 5 - 8) - 10am - 10pm
Douglas Park/ 1600-1900 S. Sacramento

Mayfest (May 20 - 22) - noon to 10pm
3100 N. Ashland

Building Renovation Update...

The last phase of the 6th floor window replacement in the northwest offices has begun. Curtain wall placement will start around May 2, probably Sunday or Monday night. Installation continues on the new stairs on the west side of the building. Demolition is almost complete on the 4th floor and the trash chute on LaSalle will be removed next week. Advance steel is being installed in the atrium - you can see the large boom lifts in the courtyard every day.

If you have questions or concerns about the renovation's progress, feel free to call the construction superintendent:

Chip Fisher - (630) 742-9418.

Web Links...

For information on **MAXHR programs, go to the link listed below. Look under **DHS Today MAXHR Articles** to access the archive. www.dhsonline.dhs.gov/maxhr

To learn more about the **National Response Plan, including downloads and information on training, go to: http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/editorial/editorial_0566.xml

Detailed background information on the **National Incident Management System (NIMS) is available at: <http://www.fema.gov/nims/>

For more information about the **Flood Map Modernization Program, go to: www.fema.gov/fhm/mm_main.shtm

Information on **festival, events, and concerts throughout Chicago can be found at www.cityofchicago.org/events

Briefly Speaking is published by DHS/FEMA Region V External Affairs, 536 S. Clark St, Chicago, IL 60605. Comments or suggestions may be sent to douglas.welty@dhs.gov